

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4966

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 6437

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FOR LUERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRIP TO OASGA AND OTHER POSTS

REF: STATE 122341

1. REFTEL ARRIVED AT MOST OPPORTUNE MOMENT AS I HAD AN APPOINTMENT TO RECEIVE FERNANDO GUTIERREZ BARRIOS AT THE RESIDENCE LAST NIGHT ON OTHER PRESIDENTIAL BUSINESS. I TOLD HIM OF REVISED TRAVEL PLANS UNDER WHICH SECRETARY WOULD ARRIVE AFTERNOON ON THURSDAY, JUNE 10, IN MEXICO CITY, BE HERE ALL DAY JUNE 11 AND PROCEED TO CANCUN ON SATURDAY, JUNE 12, DEPARTING FROM CANCUN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 13 AT ONE P.M. GUTIERREZ SAID HE FOUND ITINERARY PERFECTLY SATISFACTORY, ASSURING ME AGAIN THAT PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE HAD BEEN REDONE TO GIVE HIM ALL OF JUNE 11 HERE IN MEXICO CITY, AVAILABLE TO THE SECRETARY, AND SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO PROVIDE TIME FOR A MEETING WITH LOPEZ PORTILLO. HE WOULD CONSULT PRESIDENT AND HE WOULD SPEAK FURTHER ON DETTAILS OF PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 11. HE SAID PRESIDENT WOULD NOT BE IN TOWN ON JUNE 10, BUT THIS WOULD LEAVE THAT AFTERNOON FREE FOR SECRETARY TO MEET FOREIGN MINISTER(WHO WOULD PROBABLY GO TO THE AIRPORT TO MEET HIM) AND TO WORK WITH HIS OWN STAFF, MEET WITH EMBASSY STAFF, ETC., AS HE MIGHT DESIRE.

2. I READ HIM THE PROPOSED PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH HE
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FOUND SATISFACTORY BUT ON WHICH HE WOULD CONSULT THE

PRESIDENT PRIOR TO GIVING FINAL APPROVAL. HE AGREED THAT WE WOULD COORDINATE PRIOR TO ACTUALLY MAKING THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT IN WASHINGTON AND HERE, POSSIBLY MAY 24. WE BOTH NOTED THE PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT TRIP AND YOU MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT TODAY'S PAPER CARRIES EVEN STRONGER PRESS SPECULATION TO THE EFFECT THAT "OFFICIAL SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT SECRETARY HENRY KISSINGER WILL STOP OVER IN MEXICO..."

3. I TOLD GUTIERREZ THAT IN DRAWING UP ANY PROPOSED SCHEDULE WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY REPEAT POSSIBILITY THAT SECRETARY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SOME SIGHTSEEING BOTH HERE AND IN THE CANCUN AREA. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO KEEP MORNING OF JUNE 11 OPEN IN ORDER TO GIVE TIME TO PERMIT A VISIT TO PYRAMIDS OF TEOTIHUACAN, APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR'S DRIVE FROM MEXICO CITY. FROM CANCUN (WHERE SPECTACULAR SNORKLING AND GOOD FISHING ARE AVAILABLE IN ADDITION TO BEAUTIFUL BEACHES AND BLUE/GREEN WATER) IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO VISIT SMALL MAYAN TEMPLE COMPLEX OF TULUM ABOUT ONE HOUR'S DRIVE FROM CANCUN. WHILE TULUM IS NOT, ARCHITECTURALLY PARTICULARLY RICH IN ITSELF, ITS LOCATION ON A CLIFF AT THE EDGE OF THE CARIBBEAN IS UNIQUE. IT ALSO OCCURRED TO US THAT ON THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FROM CANCUN, HIS PLANE MIGHT STOP AT MERIDA (AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT APPROXIMATELY TWENTY MINUTES FLYING TIME BY JET) WHICH WOULD GIVE SECRETARY OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT MAJOR MAYAN TEMPLE AND PYRAMID COMPLEX AT UXMAL, WHICH IS ONLY APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF HOUR'S DRIVING TIME FROM MERIDA AIRPORT.

4. WE BOTH AGREED THAT THE TIME WAS FAST APPROACHING WHEN WE SHOULD BRING FOREIGN MINISTER HIMSELF INTO THE PICTURE OF PROPOSED VISIT BY SECRETARY AND IF NO OBJECTION PERCEIVED PLAN TO DO SO. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF OPEN PRESS SPECULATION.
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